

BUDHI KAKI **OR** **THE AGED AUNT**



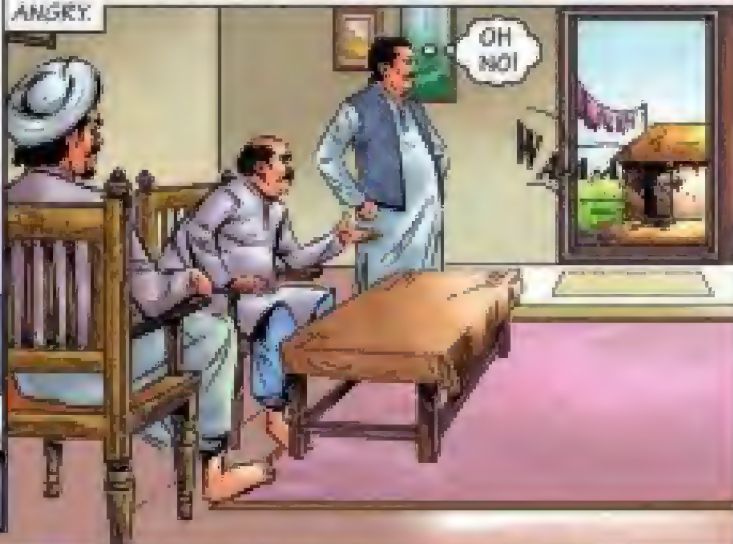
BUDDHIRAM WAS A WELL-TO-DO MAN...



...RESPECTED BY EVERYONE.



BUT ANYTHING THAT SHOWED HIM IN A BAD LIGHT MADE HIM REALLY ANGRY.



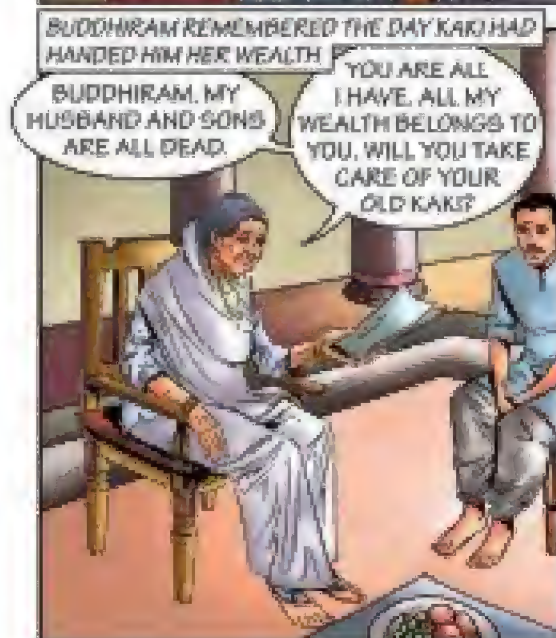
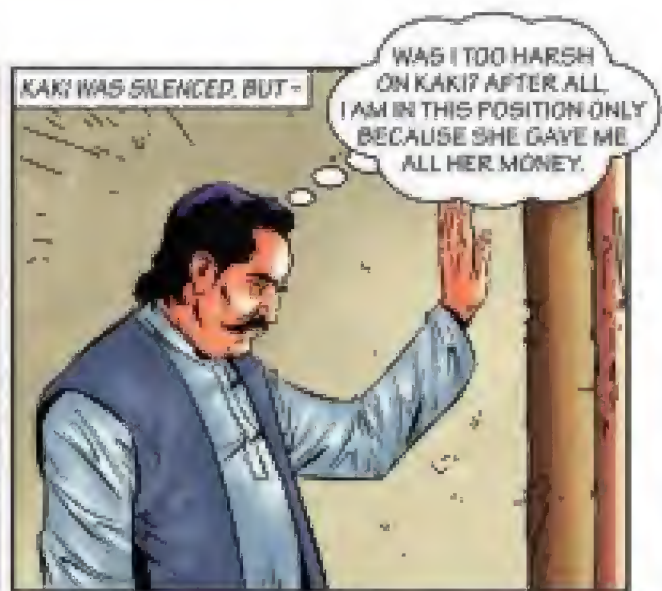
ONE OF THOSE REASONS WAS HIS AGED AUNT WHO LIVED WITH THEM.



THE NOISE BROUGHT HIS WIFE, RUPA, THERE.



*FATHER'S BROTHER'S WIFE



PROMISES ARE EASIER MADE THAN KEPT. BUDDHIRAM WAS NOT A BAD MAN BUT THE EFFORT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. KAKI SOON FOUND HERSELF COMPLETELY NEGLECTED.

I WILL TRY NOT TO SHOUT AT KAKI, BUT SHE MUST LEARN TO CONTROL HERSELF!

OH, GOD! FORGIVE ME FOR LOSING MY TEMPER AND GRANT ME GREATER PATIENCE!

IN KAKI'S ROOM -

I WAS HUNGRY, BUDDHIRAMI AND YOU KNOW THAT HUNGER IS THE ONE THING I CAN'T BEAR! BUDDHIRAMI RUPAI!

SIGH! THEY'VE GONE BACK TO THEIR WORK. WHO HAS THE TIME FOR A BLIND OLD WOMAN WHO CAN'T EVEN WALK?

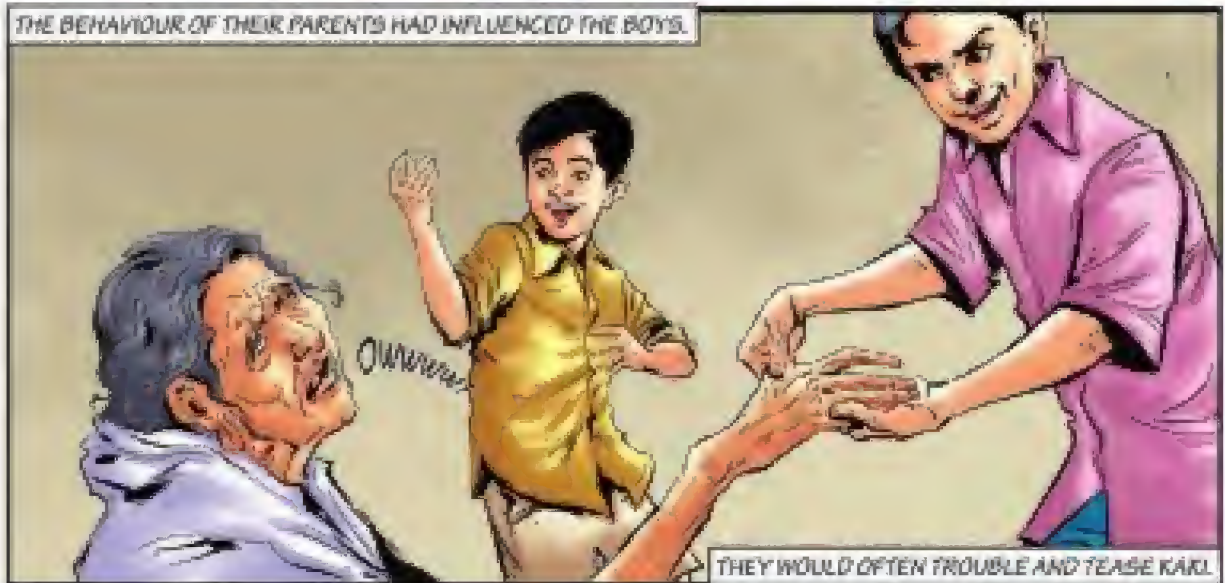
JUST THEN -

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? LAADLI! IS THAT YOU, MY DARLING?

NO, IT IS NOT YOUR DARLING. IT IS I - MUKHIRAM!



THE BEHAVIOUR OF THEIR PARENTS HAD INFLUENCED THE BOYS.



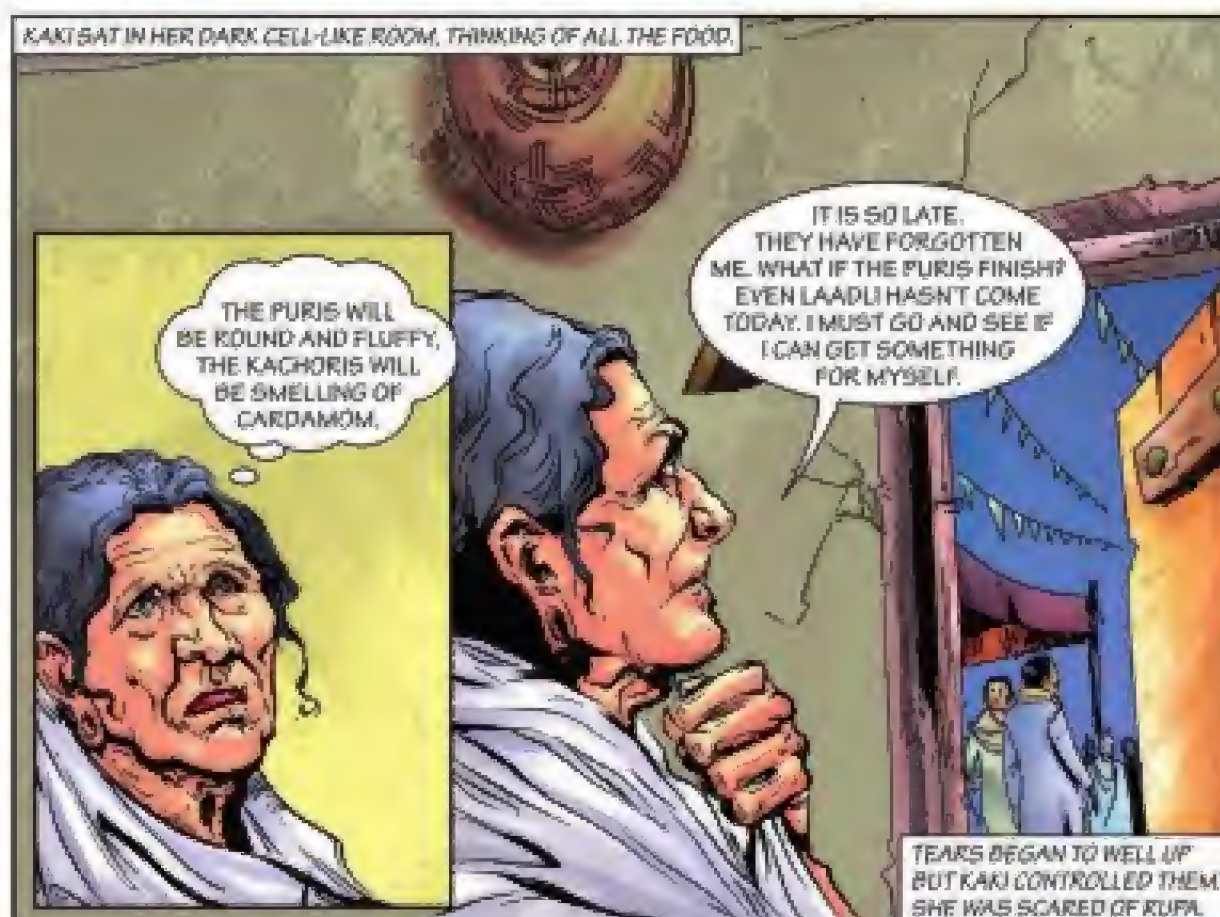
BUDDHIRAM'S DAUGHTER WAS NOT LIKE HER BROTHERS.







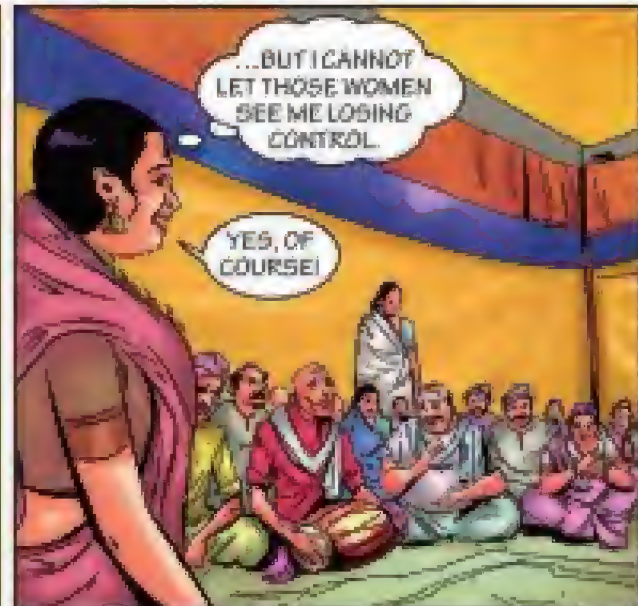
KAKI SAT IN HER DARK CELL-LIKE ROOM, THINKING OF ALL THE FOOD.



MEANWHILE, RUPA WAS BESIEGED WITH WORK.



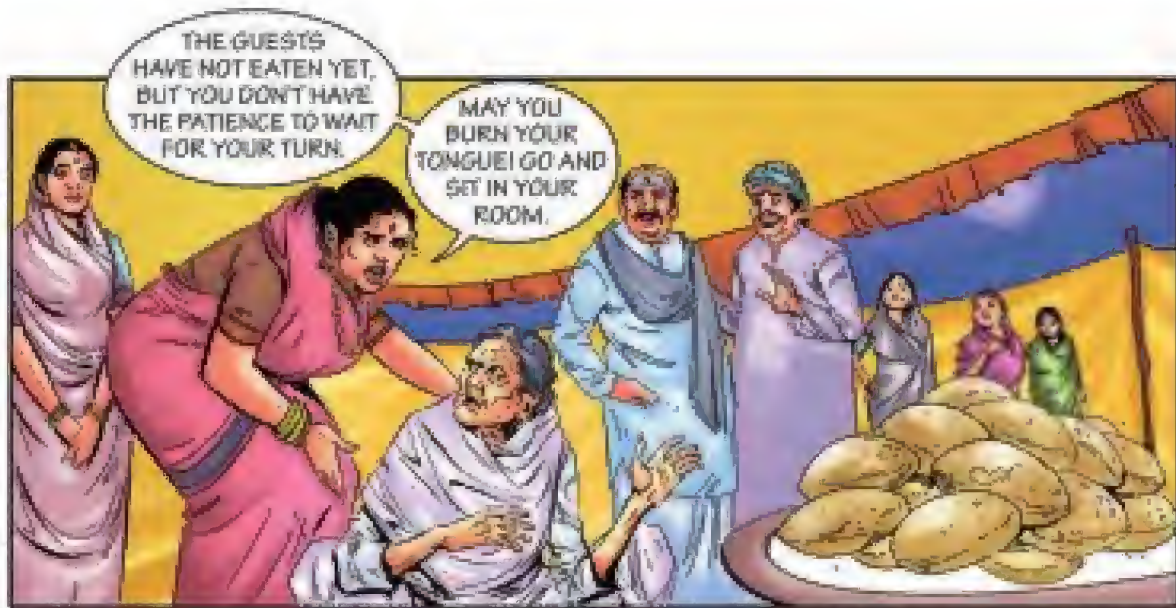
RUPA WAS TRYING HER BEST NOT TO LOSE HER TEMPER.



WHEN RUPA REACHED THE COOKING AREA -



*A COLD DRINK PREPARED WITH MILK, ALMONDS, ROSE PETALS, ETC.



KARI DID NOT LOOK UP.



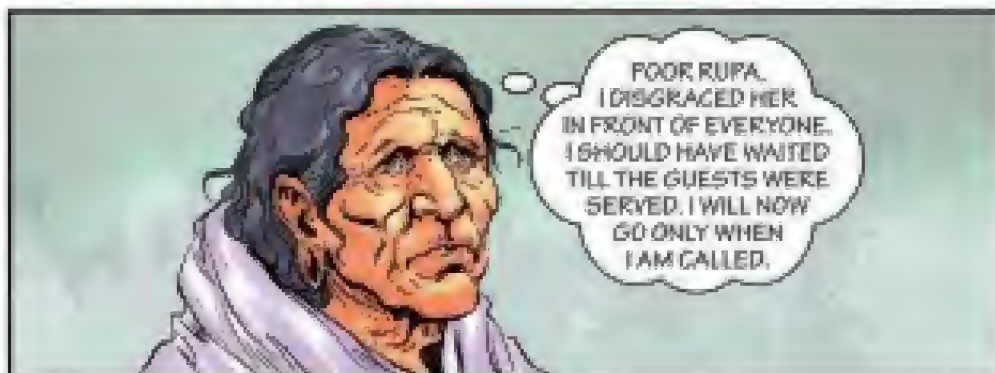
SHE TURNED AND QUIETLY CRAWLED BACK TO HER ROOM.



SHE SAT THERE WHILE THE GUESTS ATE...



...AND THE SERVANTS OF THE GUESTS ALSO SAT DOWN TO EAT.



BUT KAKI'S THOUGHTS COULD NOT LEAVE THE COURTYARD.

THE PLATES
MUST BE LAID FOR
DINNER. THE GUESTS
MUST BE WASHING UP,
READY TO ENJOY
THE FEAST.



THE WOMEN BEGAN TO SING. KAKI HUMMED ALONG
WITH THEM FOR A WHILE.

I HAVE BEEN
SINGING FOR A LONG
TIME. THE GUESTS
MUST HAVE FINISHED
EATING. NO ONE
HAS CALLED ME.



RUPA IS
ANGRY. WHO KNOWS,
SHE MAY NOT CALL ME AT
ALL. BESIDES, WHY SHOULD
SHE CALL ME? I AM NOT
A GUEST. I CAN GO
ON MY OWN.



KAKI CRAWLED OUT ONCE MORE, BUT TO HER BAD LUCK,
SHE HAD MISJUDGED AGAIN. THE GUESTS WERE STILL
THERE.



WHO IS
THIS OLD
WOMAN?

LOOK
OUT, SHE
MAY TOUCH
SOMEONE!

BUDDHIRAM WAS FURIOUS.

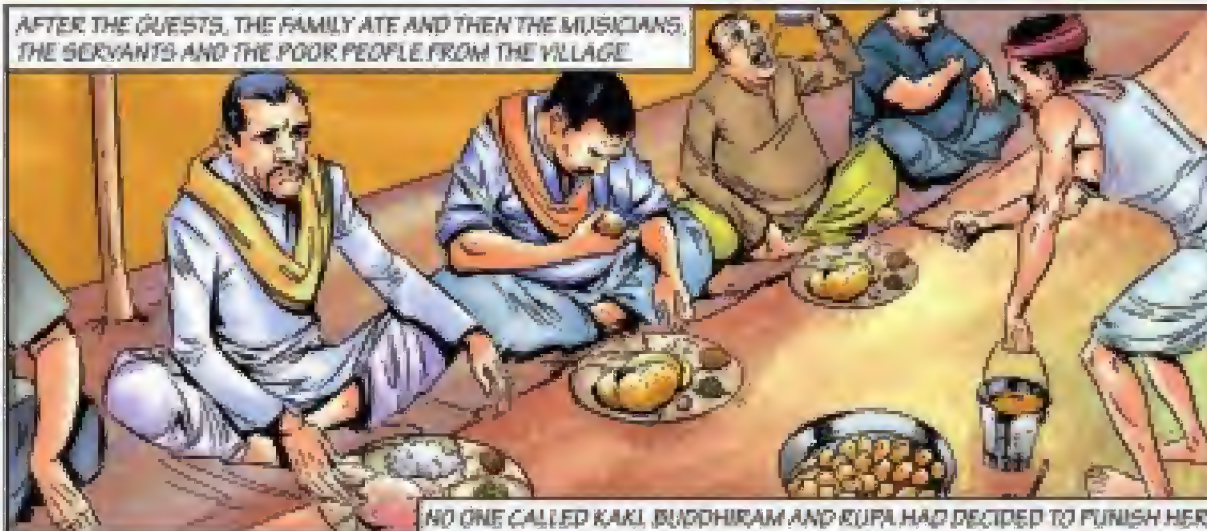


COME
HERE,
YOU!

WHY CAN'T WE
GIVE KAKI LOTS
OF PURIS TO EAT?
WHY CAN'T SHE EAT
BEFORE THE
GUESTS DO?



AFTER THE GUESTS, THE FAMILY ATE AND THEN THE MUSICIANS,
THE SERVANTS AND THE POOR PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE.



NO ONE CALLED KAKI. BUDDHIRAM AND RUPA HAD DECIDED TO PUNISH HER.

ONLY LITTLE LAADU WORRIED ABOUT HER.



I WILL KEEP
MY PURIS AND
GIVE ALL OF THEM
TO KAKI AS SOON
AS I CAN.

THEN SHE
WILL HUG ME AND
GIVE ME LOTS
OF LOVE.



THE CLOCK STRUCK 11. EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP. THE FLICKERING SHADOWS SCARED LAADLI.



A DOG SLEEPING NEAR THE FIRE STRETCHED AND WALKED AWAY. LAADLI FELT BETTER.



WHEN BUDDHIRAM HAD DRAGGED HER, KAKI HAD FAINTED. NOW, SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.



JUST THEN -



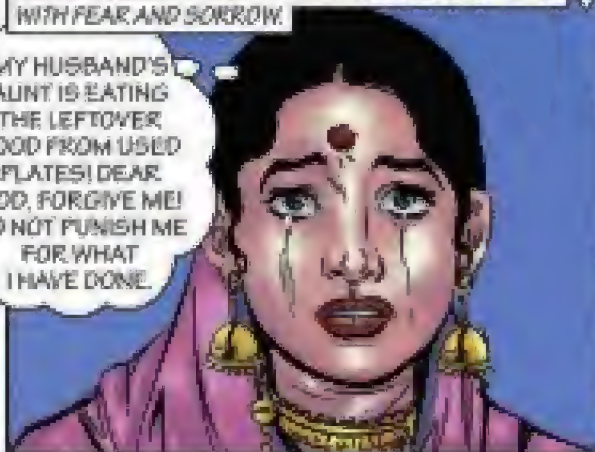


RUPA STIRRED IN HER SLEEP AND WOKE UP



TEARS WELLED UP IN RUPA'S EYES. SHE WAS FILLED WITH FEAR AND SORROW.

MY HUSBAND'S AUNT IS EATING THE LEFTOVER FOOD FROM USED PLATES! DEAR GOD, FORGIVE ME! DO NOT PUNISH ME FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE.



I HAVE SPENT SO MUCH TO KEEP MY HONOUR AND PLACE IN SOCIETY, BUT I HAVE NOT TAKEN CARE OF THE WOMAN BECAUSE OF WHOM I WAS ABLE TO DO SO. AND I HAVE DONE THIS BECAUSE SHE IS OLD AND HELPLESS.



RUPA LIT A LAMP AND WENT TO THE STOREROOM.



THERE WERE ROWS AND ROWS OF THE FOOD AND SWEETS THAT HAD BEEN COOKED THAT DAY.

PICKING UP A LARGE PLATE, RUPA FILLED IT UP WITH THE CHOICEST DISHES.



TAKING IT OUTSIDE, SHE PUT IT DOWN ON A MAT, THEN -

GET UP, KAKI. COME AND EAT YOUR DINNER...

UHI

...AND PRAY THAT I AM NOT PUNISHED FOR MY SIN. FORGIVE ME, FOR I HAVE WRONGED YOU GREATLY.

LIKE A CHILD WHO FORGETS A SCOLDING WHEN GIVEN A SWEET, KAKI FORGOT ALL THE WRONG DONE TO HER, AND SETTLED DOWN HAPPILY TO EAT. WITH ALL HER HEART, SHE BLESSED RUPA FOR HER KINDNESS.



RUPA SAT BEFORE HER, WATCHING THE WONDERFUL SIGHT.

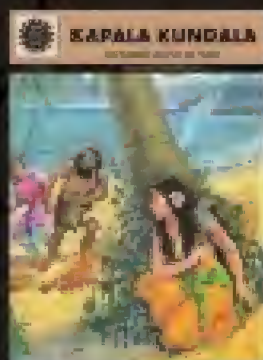
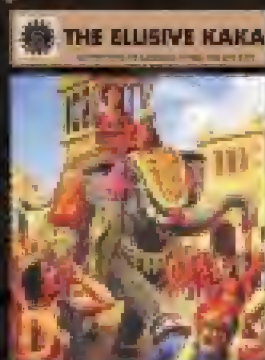
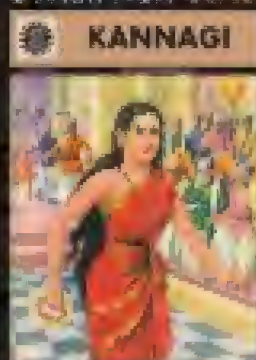
TWO OXEN

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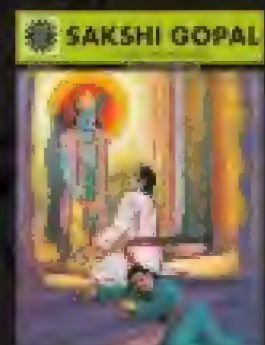
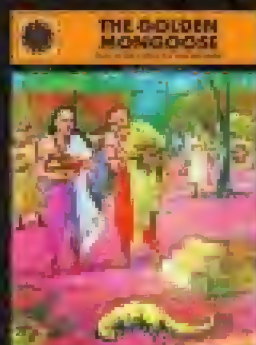
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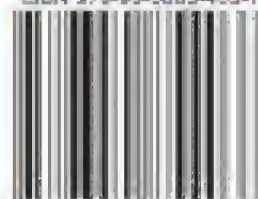
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